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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: :  
Harald RISTAU : Group: 3723  
Serial No.: 10/088,159 :  
Filed: March 14, 2002 : Examiner: L. Wilson  
For: VACUUM HOLDING DEVICE :  
600 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10016  
January 15, 2003

RECEIVED  
JAN 21 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**AMENDMENT**

Asst. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of July 15, 2002, please amend this application  
as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (amended) A vacuum holding device (1) with apparatus for producing a  
vacuum, wherein

- the vacuum holding device (1) and the apparatus for producing a vacuum are  
constructed in two parts and can be detached and connected substantially  
gastight by positioning,  
wherein the vacuum holding device has:
- a vacuum chamber (5) which is open in the direction of a contact surface (14),

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